**Post:**

"With the advent of Internet and WWW technologies, distance learning (e-learning, or Web-based learning) has enabled a new era of education." ( Qing, 2008) This quote made me think of our current educational budget shortfall. Could the increase in technology use in education have the same effect it has had on farming? The advancement of farm equipment and the technology applied to seed, fertilizer, and chemicals has greatly reduced the manpower needed to farm land productively. The increased use of Web-based learning, distance learning, and WWW technologies could very well change the manpower requirements to educate our children. It is said the we will be facilitating learning rather than actually teaching. Hopefully it will not come to pass, but could there be a day where an actual certified teacher is not required, but just simply a person to see that the equipment is functioning? Technology is changing the look of education, and it may very well change the roles and responsibilities of the teacher just as much.   
  
Li, Q., Lau, R.W., Shih, T.K., & Li, F.W. (2008, February). Technology Supports for Distributed and Collaborative Learning over the Internet. ACM Trans. International Tech. , 8(2). Retrieved from: <https://lamar.epiclms.net/Learn/Player.aspx?enrollmentid=1820321>

**Responses:**

This is quite plausible, Jack. Although I have a hard time seeing how these technologies can address those students with severe behavior problems. A disciplinarian robot a la Robocop, or worse, The Terminator?

Wow Jack you have brought up a very good point. I have discussed this in my Business class with my students before about robots. It may seem far-fetched right now but in places like Japan and China robots are being used as waiters as well as teachers. The idea that somewhere in the coming years the need for certified teachers may decrease is not crazy, it is plausible. Although, teachers are needed to facilitate online learning (such as this), I don't think as many teachers are needed. An increase in online learning can certainly lead to a decrease in the need for qualified teachers.

I am not sure if teachers will begin to be “outsourced” but I do see that people have more options in education. Look at our Lamar program. Before the age of the internet I would have needed to pay major amounts of money to go to Southern Methodist University for my master’s degree. Whereas now, I can afford a master’s for under $7,000 instead of spending over $15,000 for a similar degree at SMU which would take me an exponentially longer time to attain. I think as educators, we need to increase our skill set to ensure we keep our students engaged. Worksheets are not the appropriate form of educating. If we continue to engage our students both socially and technologically, then for our younger students, an appropriately educated teacher is still valued.